said in reply that, when the work of the Additional Munsiff's Court at Kottarakara was over, the question of transferring that court to Pattanamtitta might be considered. There is no doubt that the intention of the High Court was to transfer the court to Pattanamtitta as soon as the arrears in the Munsiff's Court at Kottarakara were cleared. Two months later, however, the High Court wrote to say that there was greater necessity for transferring that court to Perumpavur, and they have now said that there is no need for a court at Pattanamtitta. The opinion of the High Court must prevail in this matter.

As regards the dispensary at Ranni, the Darbar Physician's reply has not been received. As soon as it is received, the matter will be considered.

In regard to the bridge, yours is one of the taluks which I have not yet inspected. I mean visiting it some time in July and, when I go there, I shall see the condition of the taluk for myself. I shall then also decide whether a dispensary should be established at Ranni.

75. Means of communication in the Tiruvalla Taluk with special reference to the pakuthies comprised in Group II.

Mr. Idikkala Eappen (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) prayed for the construction of a bridge at the eastern end of the Tiruvalla-Kozhancheri road and stated that the expenditure that would be incurred on the bridge might be recouped by the establishment of a toll gate. He then gave detailed statistics regarding several subsidiary roads opened by the people, especially the Kallupara road where a bridge was necessary, and said that the temporary bridge sanctioned would not be useful, and that Government should take up those roads for maintenance as that would be an incentive to the people of other parts of the State to open similar roads. He next urged the necessity for the formation of a separate board for the investigation of those roads and for a discussion of the draft rules *in re* ryots' roads. Lastly, the Member requested the Dewan to inspect the locality to satisfy himself as to the need for the improvement of the roads under reference.

Dewan's reply.—You have taken great trouble to collect statistics regarding private roads cut by the ryots. I mean to go to Kozhancheri when I next visit Ranni, and I shall then inspect the Kaviyur bridge.

In regard to private roads, your taluk has, I admit, set an example to other taluks. Government also are doing what they can to help you. Only some days ago we took over 31 miles of private roads in addition to such roads taken over already. People should open as many roads as possible, and Government also should help them. It is not possible to spend money for the construction of roads in the several taluks according to any absolute rule of proportion. The suggestion that Government should spend money on roads and recoup themselves by levying tolls is not a very helpful one. It will take 40 or 50 years to recover the amount spent.

The draft rules *in re* ryots' road have been now before the public for sometime, and their criticisms have been received by the Government. I shall consider the question whether a conference should be called for before passing them finally.

Member.—What about the temporary bridge on the road opened by us before these rules were framed?

Dewan.—You refer, I presume, to the Kallupara iron bridge. You have not given notice of this subject beforehand. An estimate has to be prepared.

As regards the other work you have referred to, the Chief Engineer says that the estimate has to be revised and that he is going to inspect the work.

Rev. Father K. J. Kuriakose (Member, Nominated) represented that the portion of the Tiruvalla Market canal, opened last year, was so narrow and meandering that steam and motor boats could not pass through it and that it was necessary that the portion of the canal from Chantakkadavu to Pallithodu should be improved by widening it and removing a few of the bends.

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The Member next prayed that the Kedevalavu river (Manimala) should be connected with the Podiyadi Peringara river which was deepened last year up to the Peringara landing. The new *thodu* to be further opened to join the Kedevalavu river would be only half a mile in length, and it would not cost more than Rs. 5,000, including land compensation and another sum of Rs. 2,000 for deepening the river from the Munnattumukappu to Peringara. The advantages of opening the new *thodu* were that the people would not have to suffer for want of good drinking water and that goods from the eastern tracts could easily reach the town of Tiruvalla. Goods could also be freely transported to and from Kayankulam and Mavelikara. The Tiruvalla town and market would also improve. The third representation of the Member was that the bridges on the road from Tiruvalla to Mavelikara should be improved. Though the Dewan, during his tour, inspected the locality and promised the construction of one bridge every year, it was understood that the amount provided for the construction of the Alanturutti bridge had been diverted for some other work. The Member prayed that the work of constructing the Alanturutti bridge should be taken in hand at once, and one bridge opened every year.

Lastly, the Member prayed that the roads of the town of Tiruvalla might be improved. He said that only a portion covering three out of the 8 miles of road in the town was fit for cart traffic, and that the municipality was too poor to undertake the construction of the remaining length. If the Government could grant them a sum of Rs. 2,000 for this purpose, the Municipality would be able to carry out the work with the co-operation of the people.

Dewan's reply.—You refer first to a canal for connecting the Manimala and the Pampa rivers. That matter is under investigation by the Engineering Department. We shall have to see whether the connection between the two rivers is likely to produce any harm to the lands through which the proposed canal will pass. An experiment is being conducted, and the results of that experiment have been encouraging so far. We must await further results of the experiment before embarking on that work.

In regard to the market canal, the Chief Engineer says that he is providing for the necessary width and arranging for the removal of bends. He has provided for these items of work in the estimate for the next section.

In regard to town roads and bridges, that is a matter which the Municipal Council must take up. They must go into the question and see what roads they want to improve and what such improvement would cost. They must present to Government an idea of their requirements, and what contribution they are prepared to make towards the cost thereof.

76. Certain urgent needs of the Ambalapuzha Taluk.

Mr. Chandi Thomas (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) represented the following needs of the taluk:—

(1) A canal from Alleppey to Changanachery should be opened and the work begun at once.

(2) The portion of the Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road between Tiruvalla and Edattuva at least should be promptly improved.

(3) An agricultural bank should be opened to improve *punja* cultivation and encourage *punja* cultivators.

(4) All the *thodus* that were silted up in the Kuttanad *punja* fields should be opened.

(5) A few temporary dispensaries should be opened in the interior parts of Kuttanad in times of epidemics. A small dispensary should also be established at the eastern end of the Alleppey town and placed in charge of one of the Assistants in the Alleppey Hospital.

(6) The promise of the Government in regard to remission of tax to owners of lands reclaimed from the Vembanad backwater in times of failure of crops should be given effect to at once. Besides granting the remission of the current year's tax

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